

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above identified application is respectfully requested.

In the Final Rejection dated 7/14/2004 the Examiner rejected all of the pending claims 1-5. The Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and this amendment is now presented in an effort to advance prosecution of the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 - 5 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Friggstad (6305478) in view of Prairie (6047652) or Kinzenbaw (6494154).

Friggstad discloses a seeding machine but does not disclose planting units or a seed hopper that is connected to the planting units by flexible tubes as set forth in the previously present claims. Friggstad at Column 4, lines 17-20 also teaches that "in the transport position, the wing sections pivotally fold to trail rearwardly of the center section." The teaching in Friggstad is in contrast to the present invention as set forth in Claim 1 as now amended, which now more clearly states that the "wing frame can be folded forward to a longitudinal configuration along the tow bar." Support for this claim language is found in the Specification as filed in Paragraphs 0001 and 0006 and in Figure 3, for example.

Prairie discloses a seeding machine having a main frame segment and left and right wing frame segments, all frame segments provided with planting units. However, no folded (forward or rearward) transport configuration is suggested by Prairie.

Kinzenbaw et al discloses a seeding machine having left and right wing frames with planting units, but does not teach or suggest that the frames or planting units can be folded (either forward or rearward) from a transverse working configuration to a longitudinal transport configuration.

The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the rear folding seeding machine of Friggstad to include planting units on the wing frame, as taught by Prairie or Kinzenbauw.

However, other elements in Claim 1, as now claimed, are also not taught or suggested in the cited references, either singly or in combination. Specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion of providing a wing frame with planting units that can be "pivoted to a vertical position longitudinally inward of the working position" as now set

forth in Claim 1. The longitudinally inward vertical position of the planting unit is shown in the Specification as originally filed in Figures 3 and 5 and is disclosed in Paragraphs 0001, 0006 and 0021, for example.

It is therefore believed that all the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested to call the Attorney listed below to discuss and resolve any issues which might assist in the prosecution or allowance of this application.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present communication may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,


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